(d) the number of cases in which action is pending; and

(e) the action Government propose to take to check corruption prevailing in almost all the Central and State Departments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) During the year 2006 and 2007(upto July), the Central Vigilance Commission has received an average of about 400 cases per month covering various misconducts alleged to have been committed by the Central Government officials.

(b) During January-February, 2007, the Commission advised prosecution of 37 officials of various Departments/Organizations.

(c) and (d) The Commission does not maintain data regarding conviction of the officers against whom prosecution has been launched by the agency concerned.

(e) The Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "ZeroTolerance" on corruption and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all sphere of life. Several steps have been initiated to remove corruption and to improve functioning of Government. Important among these steps are:—

(i) Enactment of Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;

(ii) Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(iii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(iv) The pro-active involvement of Ministries/Departments through Annual Action Plan on vigilance; and

(v) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC.

Government organizations are also constantly engaged in improving their functioning through e-Governance, issue of Citizen Charters and simplification of procedures and systems, which are aimed at eradicating corruption by improving transparency and accountability.

Public expenditure on education and health

2552. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 5,000 children from rural areas of over/eight States participated in a rally as part of "9-is-mine" on the Martyr's Day requesting Government to allocate nine per cent of the GDP to public expenditure on education and health as promised in the National Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, the present percentage of GDP allocated to education and health; and

(c) whether the rural areas have adequate facilities especially for education and health services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The public expenditure on education & health as a proportion of GDP in 2005-06 are 3.66% and 1.31%, respectively.

(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) are two flagship programmes aimed at increasing access to education and health, respectively. SSA aims at increasing access to education through providing school infrastructure, additional teachers and other facilities. ,About 98% of rural population has access to primary and about 86% to upper primary schooling facilities. NRHM seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

Roadmap drawn by oversight Committee

2553. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission are aware of the roadmap drawn by the Oversight Committee, wherein they have projected an expenditure of Rs.72,202 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to implement 27 per cent OBC quota;

(b) if so, whether the views of IITs, IIMs and Central Universities are known to the Planning Commission that the funds projection by the Oversight Committee is inadequate; and

(c) what methodology the Planning Commission would adopt so that Government achieves its declared targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Oversight Committee's projected expenditure for implementation of 27% OBC reservation for the Eleventh Plan is Rs. 17,270 crores.

(b) and (c) Five subject specific Groups dealing with different disciplines were constituted to provide inputs to the Oversight Committee. The Group's Reports which included financial requirements were taken into account by the Oversight Committee in recommending adequate funds for implementation in a phased manner. The Oversight Committee has recommended setting up of an Empowered Committee in each of the institutions and at the Ministry level and also an Inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee to monitor and review implementation of OBC reservations.

Reviewing of method for poverty estimation

2554. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to review the current method of poverty estimation; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?